



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner

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To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
From: Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County Commissioner
Date: May 9th, 2017
Re: Support for HB 2269

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Witt, and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources,

Last winter, our community was rocked by the news that harmful toxics were being spewed into our air at alarming rates. The outrage was fully warranted. Bullseye Glass, hexavalent chromium, Uroboros Glass, selenium, and lead poisoning were suddenly household words. The fear and anger in our neighborhoods was palpable. Hundreds of people turned out to community meetings to voice their frustration, concerns and alarm about the lack of health-based air quality standards and regulations.

The response to this discovery, both in the metro region and across the state, is Governor Kate Brown's Cleaner Air Oregon initiative, which shows promise in helping to curb industrial air toxics and create health-based air quality standards. But in order for that initiative to be successful, the financial structure established in HB 2269 must be passed.

The funding and fee structure established in HB 2269 is vital for ensuring that the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative has the resources necessary to monitor and ensure compliance with health-based standards. Without HB 2269, all of the hard work that the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative has done over the last year may be for naught.

HB 2269 also adheres to the Clean Air Act's intention to ensure that 'polluters pay.' This principle is important because it recognizes that air belongs to the public as a common asset that can not be negatively impacted without proper permitting and regulation. It is also important to note that clean air regulations have dramatically improved public health and have spurred innovation and increased economic activity. The Cleaner Air Oregon process and subsequent


rules are likely to also result in dramatic improvements in public health and increases in economic activity.

HB 2269 is an important bill. It will ensure that the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative has the required funding stream to ensure it can accomplish its mission.

Air quality issues are incredibly important to our community's health and well-being. While the option to establish a local air district exists, we strongly believe all Oregon children and other vulnerable people should have the benefit of standards that protect their public health.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to support HB 2269 and adequately implement and fund the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner
District 3, Southeast and East Portland